

more nests of Tule Wren containing eggs that were almost ready to hatch. These last two sets must have been complete on or before my previous visit.

My other early record is a nest and four eggs of the Killdeer taken April 14, that were almost one half incubated.

Of the above records it is probable that the wrens may not be greatly out of the general rule, but those of the Rail and the Killdeer I should consider most exceptional.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Wash.*

Notes on Missouri Birds.—On examining Mr. Widmann's 'A Preliminary List of Missouri Birds' I find I have notes on several birds not reported from Missouri. At his suggestion I send them to you for a place among the 'General Notes' in 'The Auk.'

November 16, 1899, I saw a White-winged Crossbill feeding under some evergreen trees in a cemetery in town. It allowed me to stand watching it for a long time.

On Dec. 3, 1903, I saw a female Pine Grosbeak in a red cedar in a yard in town. It seemed sluggish and did not fly though I approached it closely.

In 1904 I saw Carolina Wrens in March, April, May and June, and I think it was the spring of this year that one commenced building in a gourd hanging in a lilac bush about four feet from the ground and within a few feet of our dining room window. It worked industriously for three or four days during the last week of March and then disappeared, and the House Wrens afterwards took possession of the site. This spring a pair built over a door in an outhouse in the garden and this time I think they succeeded in raising their brood, though we saw nothing of them. We could not see into the nest and the birds did not alight near it, but the male would fly to a pile of boards about thirty feet away and sing as though he would fly into pieces, and then suddenly dart towards the nest and fly through the door so swiftly that he was almost invisible. The first of May we found the nest torn to pieces. We thought the House Wrens did it.

In the spring of 1907 I saw a European Goldfinch in a pasture where American Goldfinches flock in winter and breed in summer.—M. SUSAN JOHNSON, *La Grange, Mo.*

Bird Notes from Southeastern Michigan.—'Recent Ornithological Developments in Southeastern Michigan,' by Messrs. Swales and Taverner (Auk, XXIV, p. 135), was of especial interest to me owing to its local nature, but while present conditions are faithfully depicted prior knowledge is somewhat vague, and I submit the following as additional data.

Larus delawarensis. RING-BILLED GULL.—This gull is of regular occurrence here beyond all question. I first learned to identify it in the fall of 1890, but classed it distinct from the Herring Gull as early as 1886. The first examined were two birds shot by Mr. Rad C. Ouellette, November

8, 1890, while he and I were duck hunting about three miles south of Sandwich on the Canadian side of the Detroit River. From that date I have observed it every year and in uniform numbers. It congregates about the sewer outlets along the river frontage of Detroit, being most abundant along the western portion. It is fearless and frequently comes within twenty feet of the observer. Whenever possible I have examined it through the transit telescope in the hope of discovering a Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). The ringed bill, combined with its lesser size as compared to the equally common Herring Gull, renders identification easy and further verification has come to light from time to time in the form of mounted specimens. It is abundant at times in spring, less so in fall, and a few remain all winter. During the exceptionally mild month of January, 1890, it was noted daily on the lower St. Clair River, which is all I know of it in that locality from personal observation. In February, 1892, an adult bird passed over my head in Ecorse Township, several miles inland, and none have since been seen in a similar locality during the winter months.

***Sterna forsteri*.** FORSTER'S TERN.—The specimen recorded by Messrs. Swales and Taverner was taken on the Canadian side of the Detroit River just below Sandwich. It should be recorded for the upper Detroit River and, of course, is not a Michigan record.

***Sterna caspia*.** CASPIAN TERN.—I have not seen this species along the Detroit River but believe numbers pass through this channel every year. The large flocks seen December 1 and 2, 1907, on the Michigan side of the St. Clair Flats were all flying across Lake St. Clair toward the Detroit River. They were in compact flocks and moving rapidly without a pause to feed.

***Phalacrocorax dilophus*.** DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—In March and April, 1892, to and inclusive of 1894, I spent a part of my noon hours watching the migration of water fowl from the city docks and cormorants were frequently noted, sometimes in small flocks of seven or eight but usually singly or in pairs, always passing up the river. This is the only place where I have seen them in spring. November 6, 1892, one passed my decoys off Sugar Island, lower Detroit River, and three were perched on a rocky point of Celeron Island November 12, 1903.

***Chaulelasmus streperus*.** GADWALL.—Before the sale of game was prohibited in the State I closely watched the city markets, and despite the reputed rarity of the Gadwall four were noted there in late April, 1893; all claimed to have been taken on the St. Clair Flats. None seen elsewhere.

***Spatula clypeata*.** SHOVELLER.—A male and two females were for sale in the city market in April, 1894, and a male in September, 1895. None seen elsewhere but several reported from the lower Detroit River. While on the subject of ducks I wish to state that none of the Scoters found their way to the city markets, though most of the old duck hunters claim to have shot them. The probable reason is the fact that Scoters are locally regarded as unfit for food.

Olor columbianus. WHISTLING SWAN.—During the last sixteen years I have personally examined nine Whistling Swans — five secured from a large flock in March, 1896, near the head of Fighting Island on the Canadian side of the Detroit River, one from the same locality taken in November, 1905, two in the city market at different times and said to have come from the St. Clair Flats, and one I found dead on the shore of Sugar Island November 6, 1892.

Olor buccinator. TRUMPETER SWAN.—One specimen in the city market in November 1893. Was taken near Wind Mill Point, Lake St. Clair, according to the statement of Thomas Swan.

Nycticorax nycticorax nævius. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Though apparently rare in recent years this species was a rather common summer resident in Ecorse Township, Wayne Co., some twenty years ago and abundant at the St. Clair Flats in the early eighties. The late W. H. Collins personally informed me that he visited a breeding colony on or near Dickinson's Island consisting of about two hundred pairs. This was in 1880, if I recollect correctly. My visit was seven years later when I covered about six miles of the middle channel but failed to see a heron of this species; however, I was not nearer to Dickinson's Island than two miles nor along the channels where the birds were most liable to occur; but Mr. Collins' statement is beyond question verified, as it is, by J. H. Langille in 'Our Birds in Their Haunts.' Mr. Langille speaks of dozens at a time wheeling buzzard-like high above Dickinson's Island, and such a movement by even a few birds could not have escaped my notice; so, in all probability, the birds decreased greatly in numbers during the four years between Mr. Langille's visit and my own. The Ecorse birds were all observed on the marshes in the present village of River Rouge. They were undoubtedly all members of the same colony, as they invariably left the marshes in the same westerly direction, rising to a considerable height and crossing the open lands well above gun shot range. They were equally wary about the marshes, and the only explanation of their extermination is wholesale slaughter on their nesting grounds. The late G. J. Wood informed me they were summer residents on these marshes during his thirty years of field work in the vicinity of this city. He seldom went there in summer without meeting with the birds but spoke of them as present in small numbers only. From his account, combined with my experience, I believe these herons occurred in uniform numbers inclusive of 1888; they then became rare and the last seen by me was an immature specimen at Mr. Wood's residence in August, 1890.

Steganopus tricolor. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—I do not consider this species of great rarity here. In 1891 John Parker claimed to have shot one the previous year on the lower Detroit River and from that time it has been reported to me occasionally from the St. Clair Flats. Mr. Walter C. Wood met with it there in June, 1900. He was rowing a boat on one of the numerous channels through the marshes on the Michigan side of the Flats

when he saw a female on some floating vegetation near the channel margin. It was very tame. He stopped the boat and watched it for some time at less than ten yards, then passed on without alarming it to flight. In June, 1904, Jesse T. Craven and party met with this phalarope in practically the same portion of the Flats, and under circumstances that convinced them the birds were breeding. In 1889 the late W. H. Collins told me that he found phalaropes in summer on the Flats, and I believe that at least a pair or so still summer there and probably breed. I made no attempt to find the Wilson's Phalarope here in Wayne County until 1907 when I decided to take a pair if possible, and secured a male and female May 19 on P. C. 667, Ecorse Twp. This was the first and only day I looked for them.

Actodromas fuscicollis. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—The status of this sandpiper in the State has been discussed but I wish to add that Mr. Herbert H. Spicer and myself again found the species common in 1907 and secured specimens. The first appeared May 26 on P. C. 667, Ecorse Twp. We found it impossible to make an exact count but estimated the number of individuals seen as fifty. During the remainder of the month and early June we found them present on all visits and the last seen was a flock of fourteen, June 6, on P. C. 588, City of Detroit.

Charadrius dominicus. GOLDEN PLOVER.—In early May, 1894, a string of about two dozen Golden Plover were for sale in the city market. I examined these birds and am positive as to identity. Sometimes, numbers were on sale in autumn but I now believe the majority of these were the Black-bellied Plover, and the uncertainty destroys all scientific value.—J. CLAIKE WOOD, *Detroit, Mich.*

Four Rare Birds in Southeastern Michigan.—The past spring in this section was made interesting by the capture of four rare birds in the vicinity of Detroit. These were all brought into Mr. Arthur Borek's taxidermy establishment where, through the courtesy of the proprietor, I was enabled to examine them in the flesh and secure one for my collection.

YELLOW RAIL, *Porzana noveboracensis*.—A female was caught alive by a dog March 25, north of and just beyond the city limits. Another bird of the same kind was said to have been flushed immediately afterwards but could not be secured. The one taken was presented to me. I endeavored to keep it alive but without success. It refused to eat and grew so weak that I had to kill it and make it up into a skin. It is No. 1028 in my cabinet.

CASPIAN TERN, *Sterna caspia*.—The writer, in collaboration with Mr. B. H. Swales, presented the known status of this bird to 'The Auk' readers a short time ago (*Auk*, 1907, XXIV, 137). It pleases me to be able to state that the required absolute data of the bird's occurrence near this city has been obtained. April 26, I examined a bird taken the day before at Hooker's Point, Lake St. Clair. Two were said to have been shot, though but one was brought in to be mounted.